

# Project Proposal

**Proposal Title:** Colorado River - San Juan River Tamarisk Removal and Revegetation

**Proposal Number:** 1411

**DWR Region:** Southeastern Region

**Lead Agency:** BLM

**County:** Grand

**Project Manager:** Brian Keating

**PM Phone:** 4352592194

**Regional Priority:** Within Focus Area

**Project Type:** Terrestrial Habitat

**Proposed Start Date:** 07/01/2009

---

**Project Location:** Colorado River: Scattered sites along the Colorado River corridor between Dewey Bridge and Moab Potash Plant.

**Project Description:** The BLM will utilize prescribed fire, thinning and piling and mechanical thinning techniques on approximately 450 acres of riparian area along the Colorado and San Juan Rivers. Revegetation work is also planned on large portions of the treated areas.

**Description of Problem/Need:** The Colorado and San Juan River riparian areas have experienced significant vegetative and wildlife habitat degradation due to the expansion of Tamarisk and Russian Olive trees over the past 40-50 years. These invasive species have displaced native vegetation, increased the fire hazard and risk of a catastrophic wildfire event and have displaced wildlife due to the loss of native vegetation. Recently, the use of the Tamarisk Beetle as a biological control agent has had significant impact to the riparian areas by affecting large tracks of vegetation, which has resulted in an increased fire hazard. The BLM has worked to aggressively remove the affected vegetation in key areas and followed-up with revegetation efforts of native species to help restore the riparian corridors and reduce the fire hazard. Past treatment efforts have focused on, and continue to identify, areas along the Colorado River in the Moab Field Office. However, with the establishment of the beetle on the San Juan River near Bluff, Utah, the BLM plans to expand treatments into these areas. Removal of tamarisk and other invasive species along with the revegetation of native vegetation is planned in a number of new areas along the Colorado and San Juan Rivers.

**Objectives:** Remove invasive Tamarisk, Russian Olive and other invasive species in riparian areas of the Colorado and San Juan Rivers followed by an aggressive revegetation effort to reintroduce and establish native grasses, forbs and tree species.

**Relevance to Strategic Plans:** The WAP focus areas are the same as the UPCD focus areas. The areas planned for treatment along the Colorado River fall within the riparian focus areas of SE Utah. The area proposed for treatment on the San Juan River does not currently fall within a UPCD focus area.

The work to remove tamarisk and Russian olive is consistent with the recently updated Resource Management Plans (RMP's) for the Moab and Monticello Field Offices. In addition, the proposed project is consistent with the Moab Fire Zone Fire Management Plan.

BLM has had conversations with UDWR's sensitive species biologist to ensure treatments do not negatively impact sensitive species. Treatments could potentially positively benefit numerous sensitive species listed in this proposal.

**Potential Risks:** A delay in removal of tamarisk would place the public, communities, recreational sites and natural vegetation at risk from catastrophic wildfire. Revegetation needs to occur to reduce noxious plants and weeds.

**Proposed Methods:** The BLM will continue Tamarisk removal through mechanical, prescribed fire and herbicide treatments. Follow-up or maintenance treatments are also an important component to this effort. In many areas where the tamarisk has been removed, follow-up herbicide treatments are required to insure mortality of tamarisk and Russian olive trees. In addition, herbicide treatments to help treat other invasive species such as Russian knapweed and cheatgrass are planned. This proposal is for funding, which will be applied to existing agreements with contractors and a youth corps to assist in the revegetation and maintenance of new and existing tamarisk treatment areas. In addition, funding and procurement support is requested for revegetation efforts. See budget breakdown at end of proposal for funding specifics.

The BLM is committed to maintaining the treatment areas with both revegetation and noxious weed activity. Due to the effects of the tamarisk beetle, additional areas for treatment will continue to be identified on a yearly basis. The BLM will identify and prioritize maintenance and new treatment areas as budgets and workforce allow.

---

**Shapefile Name:** 1411

**Seed Source:** GBRC

**UPCD Reg Team Coord Date:**

**Proposed NEPA Action:**

**Proposed Arch Action:**

☒ **Vegetation Monitoring** ☐ **Wildlife Monitoring**

**Monitoring Information:** Monitoring for treatment effectiveness and vegetative response has been occurring on past tamarisk treatment units and will continue for any new areas covered by this proposal. In addition, the BLM is coordinating monitoring activities with adjacent partners and local contractor to insure that monitoring protocols are consistent and results shared.

Wednesday, January 14, 2009 9:31:50

# Project Proposal

The BLM fuels program will utilize a series of rangeland plots and fuel transects to monitor the effectiveness of the fuels treatments and subsequent revegetation treatments. All monitoring activities will involve quantitative and qualitative techniques and be repeated annually for the first three years following treatment. All research studies will result in reports, which will be available for other agencies and partners.

## Grazing Management:

The areas proposed for treatment are not part of any active or permitted grazing allotments and therefore have no effect.

## SPECIES BENEFITING

Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Southwestern Willow Flycatcher	Townsend's Big-eared Bat	Spotted Bat
Bonytail	Humpback Chub	Razorback Sucker	Peregrine Falcon
Western Red Bat	Colorado Pikeminnow		

## LAND OWNERSHIP

Owner	Acres
BLM	450
<b>Total</b>	<b>450</b>

## PROPOSED FUNDING

Source	Amount Requested	Date Approved	Amount Approved
BLM WUI	\$0.00		\$237,000.00
DNR Watershed (FY10)	\$60,522.00		\$0.00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$60,522.00</b>		<b>\$237,000.00</b>

## PROPOSED BUDGET

Item	Description	DWR Account	Partner Contrib.
Personal Services	remove tamarisk, plants trees, herbicide applicati	\$27,000.00	\$80,000.00
Contractual Services	bullhog, thin, pile, burn,	\$0.00	\$142,000.00
Materials and Supplies	pumps, hoses, fittings, irrigation supplies	\$6,000.00	\$5,000.00
Materials and Supplies	250 ea 15 gallon trees X \$55	\$13,750.00	\$10,000.00
Seed (GBRC)	300 acres at \$38.65/acre	\$11,597.00	\$0.00
Materials and Supplies	1,500 bareroot seedlings X \$1.45	\$2,175.00	\$0.00
<b>Totals</b>		<b>\$60,522.00</b>	<b>\$237,000.00</b>

## Project Map: